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in taste.⁸ Sometimes, as can be seen in reports made to officials in Kushiro and other *Basho*, breweries were set up in various parts of Ezo and a standard method of brewing was enforced so that sufficient crude sake would be on hand.⁹

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469

The Bakufu was also prudent in seeing that the Ezo got just compensation for their labors. The use of Ezo as workmen had become frequent just prior to this period because a number of industries became permanent. But this status as laborers was due to the pledge given by them after the revolt of 1669 and so their pay was small and uncertain.

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After the Bakufu took over there was an increase in the number of officials and guards and, as the trading posts and guardhouses were permanent affairs, a greater number of Ezo were used for such low-class jobs as porters and servants. They were also used as guides, messengers, coolies, ferrymen, mule drivers, and even to open up new roads.⁷ They were overworked, a fact which Kondō Juzo notes in his *SECG*: "Transportation so far has been confined to the coasts and regardless of whether or not it was the fishing season the Ezo were called upon to serve as laborers whenever necessary, thus hampering their fishing a great deal."⁸ The Bakufu set a rate of pay in rice and ordered that "All Ezo working as coolies or at other types of labor shall be given, as heretofore, seven gō five shaku of rice when traveling over five ri and one shō when traveling over ten ri."⁹

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465

Seven gō five shaku of unpolished rice was the base pay for the Ezo and in later years sake and money were added to this. If a native could not return to his home on the same day that he set out on a job, rice was given to him, on the same basis, for his return trip. According to documents sent to the Tsugaru clan by the Bakufu in 1806 the going rate of pay for guides was two meals and two gō of sake and for those who helped in building houses or gathering firewood the per diem was three shō of rice per person.¹⁰ This is much better pay than is found in the *Ezo Nikki* [Ezo Diary] of Mutō Kanzō written in 1798 in which the compensation is listed as two gō five shaku per day. Discussion of wages will be reserved for a later chapter.

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436
437

B. CIRCULATION OF IRON COINS

The advisability of the circulation of iron coins was an important factor in the discussions of Bakufu policy makers. The barter system had many faults and

⁷ *SHS* 3: 401 and 405. This however was on an experimental basis only and was soon abandoned owing to small quantities and high costs.

⁸ *Kusuri Basho Toriatsumakata Kokinuki* (Extract of notes concerning the administration of *Kusuri Basho*).

⁹ *Hokkaidō Chō*, ed. *Hokkaidō Dōro Shi* (History of roads in Hokkaidō), 8-9.

¹⁰ *Kondō Sesai Zenshu* 1: 39.

¹¹ *SHS* 3: 534.

¹² *Buika Sannen Tantomeshiki* (Officials acts of 1806) and *Bunsei Gomon Nishichi hikivatashi enetsusho* (Address regarding the transfer of the Western territories in 1822).